

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

NISHIUCHI, Takeshi et al.

Serial No.: 09/901,044

Filed: July 10, 2001

Notice of Allowance dated:
December 16, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3723

Examiner: MORGAN, E.P.

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 6430

For. DRY SURFACE TREATING APPARATUS AND DRY SURFACE TREATING
METHOD USING THE SAME APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(d)

Attn: Group Director

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 6, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

Documents AF through AG were cited in the European Office Action dated January 26, 2004. A copy of the Office Action is also attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee.

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement and was

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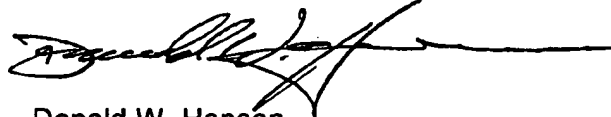
known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

A check is attached hereto which covers the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this Statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO 1449; Office Action; 2 References; Check for \$180.00